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Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Philippe Donckel (Luxembourg), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.14

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006, 62/204 of 19 December 2007, 63/228 of 19 December 2008, 64/214 of 21 December 2009 and 65/172 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[2]

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[3] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 65/1.

[3] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

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Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008, by which it adopted the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Taking note of the Ezulwini Declaration adopted at the Third Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, on 21 and 22 October 2009,[5]

Taking note also of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration[6] as an outcome of the High-level Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and other Development Gaps Faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in collaboration with the Government of Mongolia, and held from 12 to 14 April 2011 in Ulaanbaatar,

Taking note further of the communiqué of the Tenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2011,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Expressing concern that inadequate transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure remains a major obstacle to trade and inhibits growth in landlocked developing countries,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[7] on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;[4]

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[4] Ibid., annex I.

[5] A/64/856, annex.

[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 19* (E/2011/39), chap. IV, resolution 67/1.

[7] A/66/205.

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,[8] to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and calls upon landlocked developing countries to take greater ownership of the Almaty Programme of Action by further mainstreaming it into their national development strategies;

5. *Calls upon* development partners and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

6. *Reaffirms its full commitment* to urgently address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the Declaration on the midterm review;

7. *Acknowledges* that landlocked and transit developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America have strengthened their policy and governance reform efforts and that development partners, including international financial and development institutions, have paid greater attention to the establishment of efficient transit systems;

8. *Notes with concern* that, despite the progress made in implementing the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized in international trade, have serious capacity-building needs in the area of trade and transport facilitation, and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems which prevent them from fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Invites* Member States, including development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications and energy infrastructure, so as to enhance intraregional connectivity, and strengthening analytical capacities to assist

[8] See resolution 63/2.

in the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive transport policies to support the transit corridors needed to facilitate trade; and in this regard, encourages enhanced regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation which offers more appropriate, direct and effective solutions in addressing landlocked and transit country issues;

10. *Expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges faced by the international community, and invites the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their resilience and in protecting the advances made towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action;

11. *Encourages* the relevant international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions, to assist the landlocked developing countries, as appropriate, in undertaking research on the vulnerability of landlocked developing countries to external shocks, through the development of a set of vulnerability indicators that can be used by the landlocked developing countries for early warning purposes;

12. *Underlines* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, notes that the ongoing negotiations of the World Trade Organization on trade facilitation are particularly important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and calls upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfils the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade;

13. *Calls upon* development partners to implement effectively the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products through private-sector involvement, including the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

14. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, and encourages the international community to enhance efforts to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base, to encourage, on mutually agreed terms, the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology, and to enhance value addition to their exports through the development of their productive capacities;

15. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional

organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

16. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private-sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, and in this regard encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

17. *Recognizes* that broader and more effective cooperation among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders, and in this regard encourages landlocked and transit developing countries to ratify and to implement effectively, as appropriate, international conventions and agreements and regional and subregional agreements on transport and trade facilitation;

18. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the Declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to landlocked and transit developing countries, through, inter alia, well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

19. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Member States, including development partners, and the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, in providing infrastructure development and connectivity and the integration of regional rail and road networks and in strengthening the legal frameworks of landlocked and transit developing countries, encourages them to continue providing their support, and in this regard welcomes the ongoing efforts made by the Office of the High Representative and the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the African Union Commission and other relevant international and regional organizations, in assisting the elaboration of the intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-African Highway;

20. *Urges* landlocked developing countries to sign and ratify, at their earliest convenience, the multilateral agreement on the establishment of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries in order to bring the think tank to full operation, and invites the Office of the High Representative and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, including development partners, and relevant international and regional organizations to support the think tank so that it can undertake its role;

21. *Decides* to hold a comprehensive ten-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014, in accordance with paragraph 49 of the Almaty Programme of Action and paragraph 32 of the Declaration on the midterm review,[8] preceded, where necessary, by regional and global as well as thematic preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner; underlines that intergovernmental mechanisms at the global and regional levels, including those of the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant substantive material and statistical data, should be effectively utilized in the review process; recalls that, also in accordance with the aforesaid paragraph 49, the Office of the High Representative is designated as the United Nations system-wide focal point for the preparatory review process; and notes that United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, should provide necessary support and actively contribute to the preparatory review process and the comprehensive ten-year review conference itself;

22. *Also decides* to take a decision on the organizational aspects, venue, duration and dates of the comprehensive ten-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action and of possible intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings, to be held in 2014 in a most effective manner, at its sixty-seventh session;

23. *Encourages* Member States, including development partners, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference,[3] as well as the participation of landlocked developing countries in the preparatory process and in the comprehensive ten-year review conference itself;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and on the progress made in the preparatory process for the comprehensive ten-year review conference;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".